

Software Industry

1675. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of software industry in the country during the last three years;

(b) the private and public sector companies involved in the production and export of software at present;

(c) whether there is a vast scope to promote the export of software;

(d) if so, the possibilities explored in that regard; and

(e) the programmes drawn for 1996-97 financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YODINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The performance of the software industry for the last three years is given below :-

(Rs. in crores)		
Year	Domestic	Export
1993-94	695	1,020
1994-95	1,070	1,474
1995-96	1,690	2,650
		(estimated)

(b) There are about 250 major software exporting companies, including 3 from the public sector.

(c) to (e). The Government has initiated the following steps to boost software exports :-

- To provide High Speed Data Communication Infrastructure facility to software exports, the Department of Electronics has established 7 Software Technology Parks (STPs) at Bangalore, Pune, Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar, Thiruvantapuram, Noida and Hyderabad. The Government is also encouraging State Governments to set up STPs.

State Government of West Bengal and Rajasthan have set up STPs at Calcutta and Jaipur respectively. State Government of Punjab and Goa have also initiated steps to set up STPs in their respective States.

- Strengthening of manpower Development Programme both in terms of quantity and quality to meet the growing requirements of the Software industry. In the past, the Department of Electronics (DOE) has supported 254 institutions for Degree/Diploma Level courses in Computers.

In order to bring standardisation in the quality of education in the non-formal sector, DOE is implementing a voluntary scheme, namely, Department of Electronics Accreditation of Computer Courses (DOEACC) under which institutions in the non-formal sector (both private and public) on meeting specified norms and criteria are given accreditation for conducting specified levels of computer courses - 'O' (Foundation), 'A' (Advanced Diploma), 'B' (Graduate) and 'C' (Post-Graduate).

- Promote Computerisation in the country which would provide a base for building of skills and for demonstration of capabilities
- Legal protection of software through the Copy Right Act.
- Launching of Export promotion Campaigns

The programmes drawn for the 1996-97 are as follows:-

- Capacity Augmentation by increasing the bandwidth of the existing High Speed Data Communication Channels at the STPs set up by the DOE to meet the growing requirements of the exporting units.
- Organise Software Export Promotion Seminars/Conferences in USA alongwith the Software Industry Association and Indian Mission abroad.
- Participate in the international exhibitions - Comdex Fall 96 and CeBIT 97.
- Organise Seminars for creation of awareness on use of legal software and Intellectual Property Rights protection of software, alongwith Software Industry Association.

Contamination of Ground Water

1676. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "FATAL THIRST : 1 M. DRINK TOXIC WATER" appearing in 'The Economic times', New Delhi dated July 1, 1996;

(b) if so, whether drinking water in the seven districts in West Bengal contains more arsenic a litre than the safe limit prescribed by the World Health Organisation;

(c) if so, whether any long-term or short term plan has been formulated to eradicate this worst arsenic contamination of ground water in these 7 districts, particularly the 24-Parganas (South), which is poverty-ridden and does not have any industry;

(d) if so, its broad features; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Drinking water in eight districts in West Bengal contains arsenic more than safe limits prescribed by the World Health Organisation.

(c) to (e). As per information received from Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, the Government of West Bengal has prepared a perspective plan at a total cost of Rs. 750 crores indicating long term and short term measures to tackle arsenic contamination. The replacement of tubewells by deeper ones, construction of new piped water supply schemes and construction of Sanitary protected Rig Wells and Rain Water Harvesting Structure for immediate relief and establishment of surface water based piped water supply schemes, establishing new spot sources for solving the problem on long term basis are some of the salient features of the perspective plan. The perspective plan includes a project aiming to cover six arsenic affected block of South 24 parganas district based on surface water of river Hooghly at a cost of Rs.228 crores to benefit 13.56 lakhs people. A task force comprising of experts of Govt. of India and State Govt. have been set up under the PHE Deptt. to monitor various activities related to arsenic contamination.

As regards urban areas, no proposal/scheme for removal of arsenic contamination has been received from the Government of West Bengal.

Mega Power Projects

1677. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra for setting up of mega power projects of 2500 MW in the States based on Oman Gas pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith proposed sites; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Monitor of Projects

1678. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ongoing projects being monitored by the Government;

(b) the number out of them which have cost overruns of over 50% including their approved cost and now their anticipated cost; and

(c) the details thereof, Ministry-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) As on 31.3.1996, 401 projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above in the Central sector, were being monitored by the Government.

(b) As on 31.3.1996, 64 projects were having cost overrun of 50% and more with reference to their latest approved cost.

(c) The Ministry-wise number of projects, having cost overrun of 50% and more, is given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Ministry	No. of Projects with 50% and more cost overrun
1. Atomic Energy	1
2. Civil Aviation	1
3. Coal	4
4. Fertiliser	1
5. I and B	1
6. Steel	2
7. Petro. and Natural Gas	4
8. Power	14
9. Heavy Industry	1
10. Railways	25
11. Surface Transport	9
12. Others (implementation by PWD)	1
Total	64

LPG Agencies

1679. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been received